

## Meeting the challenge of the Proper Management of Hazardous Waste



*Why hazardous waste  
must only be managed  
by specialised companies*

### **EURITS, what's in a name?**

*Hazardous waste contains hazardous components  
& contaminants*

### **Who is Eurits?**

- The European Union for the Responsible Incineration & Treatment of Special waste
- An association of hazardous waste management companies across the EU
- Together, those companies are responsible for over 90% of the hazardous waste incineration in the EU

### **Main activities**

Make sure haz waste is handled, managed & treated very specifically:

- Avoid any dispersion of hazards or contaminants into the environment
- Ensure that public health is protected
- Clarify safe treatment of hazardous waste requires specialist handling & facilities

### **Key role**

- The EU's leading voice on hazardous waste
- +20 years experience in raising awareness of the need for the proper management of hazardous waste
- Consistent promotion of best sustainable environmental practice

# Why hazardous waste must only be managed by specialised companies – Q&A

## What makes a waste hazardous?

### Different kinds of waste: inert, non-hazardous & hazardous waste

#### Hazardous waste definition

- Containing substances toxic for humans & the environment
- Reference by hazardous properties: explosive, flammable, corrosive, acute or chronic toxicity, eco-toxicity with or without bioaccumulation



- Substances that can generate hazardous by-products on contact with air or water, eg. Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) such as Lindane & Dioxins

#### Waste producers

- **Industry:** majority of hazardous waste in the EU
- **Households:** Small haz waste: paints, herbicides, white spirit & batteries BUT containing specific substances like:
  - Heavy metals
  - POP's
  - Molecules causing cancers or foetal malformations or that result in the destruction of biodiversity

## Guaranteeing a circular economy without contaminating product or resource cycles & limiting environmental impact

#### Why manage hazardous substances & contaminants in waste separately?

##### **Appropriate treatment minimizes risks:**

- Full destruction of contaminants
- Decontamination of haz waste in specialist facilities
- Recovery of valuable materials through safe recycling & treatment

##### **Dedicated procedures, infrastructures & technologies**

→ **right level of protection & the highest quality of decontaminated materials**

#### Main drivers for specialised treatment of hazardous waste

##### **REQUIRED: a facility designed for that purpose & dedicated to it**

- Understand the composition of the waste & its hazardousness & the risks
- Identify the risks per waste stream, correct & compatible wastes storage
- Secured & controlled waste treatment facilities
- Safe & correct handling/treatment by highly-skilled workforce
- Full traceability in 2 directions: to waste producers & final treatment
- High standard, safe & dedicated techniques

#### Contact info

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